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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A field emission cold cathode device of a lateral type comprising:
 - a support substrate;
 - a cathode electrode disposed on the support substrate and having a first side surface;
 - a gate electrode disposed on the support substrate laterally side by side with the cathode electrode and having a second side surface opposing the first side surface; and
- 15 an emitter disposed on the first side surface to oppose the second surface and configured to emit electrons, the emitter comprising a metal plating layer formed on the cathode electrode and a plurality of granular or rod-shaped micro-bodies supported in the metal plating layer in a dispersed state, and the micro-bodies consisting essentially of a metal material.
- 20 25 2. The device according to claim 1, wherein the metal material is selected from the group consisting of Mo, Ta, W, Ta, Ni, Cr, Au, Ag, Pd, Cu, Al, Sn, Pt, Ti, and Fe.
3. The device according to claim 1, wherein the micro-bodies are granular bodies and have a radius of not more than 100 nm.

5 4. The device according to claim 1, wherein the
micro-bodies are rod-shaped bodies and have distal ends
with a radius of curvature of not more than 50 nm.

10 5. The device according to claim 1, wherein the
micro-bodies are rod-shaped and hollow bodies, and a
filler layer consisting essentially of a conductive
material is disposed in the micro-bodies.

15 6. The device according to claim 1, wherein the
micro-bodies are rod-shaped bodies, and 50% to 100% of
the micro-bodies are oriented within an angular range of
 $\pm 20^\circ$ relative to a major surface of the support
substrate, where the cathode electrode is disposed.

20 7. The device according to claim 1, wherein the
metal plating layer comprises a resistance ballast layer
containing an additive material, which increases a
resistance of the metal plating layer.

8. The device according to claim 7, wherein the
metal plating layer has a resistivity of $10^{-8} \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ to $10^{-4} \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$.

25 9. The device according to claim 1, wherein the
micro-bodies are partly buried in the metal plating
layer.

5 10. The device according to claim 1, wherein the
micro-bodies are entirely buried in the metal plating
layer.

11. The device according to claim 1, further
comprising:

10 a gate projection disposed on the second side
surface to oppose the first side surface, the gate
projection comprising a gate metal plating layer
consisting essentially of a same material as that of the
metal plating layer; and

15 a plurality of gate micro-bodies supported in the
gate metal plating layer in a dispersed state and
consisting essentially of a same material as that of the
micro-bodies.

12. The device according to claim 1, further
20 comprising:

 a surrounding member cooperating with the support
substrate to form a vacuum discharge space that surrounds
the cathode electrode, the gate electrode, and the
emitter; and

25 an anode electrode disposed on the surrounding
member at a position opposing the cathode electrode and
the gate electrode.

13. A vacuum micro-device comprising:

- 5 a support substrate;
- a cathode electrode disposed on the support
substrate and having a first side surface;
- a gate electrode disposed on the support substrate
laterally side by side with the cathode electrode and
- 10 having a second side surface opposing the first side
surface;
- an emitter disposed on the first side surface to
oppose the second surface and configured to emit
electrons, the emitter comprising a metal plating layer
- 15 formed on the cathode electrode and a plurality of
granular or rod-shaped micro-bodies supported in the
metal plating layer in a dispersed state, and the micro-
bodies consisting essentially of a metal material;
- a surrounding member cooperating with the support
20 substrate to form a vacuum discharge space that surrounds
the cathode electrode, the gate electrode, and the
emitter; and
- an anode electrode disposed on the surrounding
member at a position opposing the cathode electrode and
- 25 the gate electrode.
14. The device according to claim 13, wherein the
surrounding member comprises a transparent opposite
substrate opposing the support substrate, the anode

5 electrode comprises a transparent electrode, and the transparent electrode and a fluorescent layer are stacked on the opposite substrate in the vacuum discharge space.

15. The device according to claim 13, wherein the metal material is selected from the group consisting of
10 Mo, Ta, W, Ta, Ni, Cr, Au, Ag, Pd, Cu, Al, Sn, Pt, Ti, and Fe.

16. The device according to claim 13, wherein the micro-bodies are granular bodies and have a radius of not more than 100 nm.

15 17. The device according to claim 13, wherein the micro-bodies are rod-shaped bodies and have distal ends with a radius of curvature of not more than 50 nm.

18. The device according to claim 17, further comprising:

20 a gate projection disposed on the second side surface to oppose the first side surface, the gate projection comprising a gate metal plating layer consisting essentially of the same material as that of the metal plating layer; and

25 a plurality of gate micro-bodies supported in the gate metal plating layer in a dispersed state and consisting essentially of the same material as that of the micro-bodies.